

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 8, 12 and 16 as shown in the following list of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of inventorying data carriers by means of a communication station, wherein said communication station and each data carrier are brought into communicative connection, and wherein each data carrier brought into communicative connection with the communication station generates a response signal enabling the inventorying of the data carrier after at least one operational condition has been fulfilled and supplies said response signal using a transmission start moment that can be chosen from a plurality of transmission start moments that are defined from a predefined moment, wherein each of the transmission start moments results from a sum of a common selectable discrete time period and a number of waiting time periods from the predefined moment, where the number of waiting time periods is defined from the end of the common selectable discrete time period ~~the time differential between said predefined moment and each of said transmission start moments includes the sum of a common discrete delay period and a number of waiting time periods,~~ and wherein each data carrier before providing its response signal tests whether another data carrier is already providing its response signal, and wherein each data carrier discontinues the provision of its response signal if another data carrier is already giving its response signal.

2. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each data carrier already before generating its response signal tests whether another data carrier is giving its response signal, and wherein each data carrier discontinues the generation of its response signal if another data carrier is already giving its response signal.

3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the response signal given is an identification signal.

- 1 4. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 number of said waiting periods is selected by a random principle.
- 1 5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 predefined moment is at a command signal end of a command signal given by the
3 communication station.
- 1 6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 number of selectable transmission start moments is greater than the number of
3 data carriers.
- 1 7. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a data
2 carrier that has given a response signal can be set to an idle state by the
3 communication station, in which idle state no response signal is provided.
- 1 8. (currently amended) A data carrier, which data carrier is designed for
2 contactless communication with a communication station and which comprises an
3 integrated circuit, which integrated circuit comprises the following means:
4 response signal generation means for generating a response signal start moment
5 selection means by which a transmission start moment can be selected from a
6 plurality of transmission start moments that are defined from a predefined
7 moment, wherein each of the transmission start moments results from a sum of a
8 common selectable discrete time period and a number of waiting time periods
9 from the predefined moment, where the number of waiting time periods is defined
10 from the end of the common selectable discrete time period ~~the time differential~~
11 ~~between said predefined moment and each of said transmission start moments~~
12 ~~includes the sum of a common discrete delay period and a number of waiting time~~
13 ~~periods~~, and response signal recognition means designed for recognizing a
14 response signal given by another data carrier and for generating and delivering a
15 response signal recognition signal and wherein delivery decision means are
16 provided which release or block a delivery of the response signal in dependence
17 on the response signal recognition signal and the transmission start moment.

1 9. (previously presented) A data carrier as claimed in claim 8, wherein the
2 response signal generation means are formed by identification signal generation
3 means.

1 10. (previously presented) A data carrier as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein
2 the response signal recognition means are designed for recognizing a carrier
3 signal.

1 11. (previously presented) A data carrier as claimed in claim 8, wherein the
2 response signal recognition means are designed for recognizing a modulated
3 carrier signal and for this purpose comprise demodulation means which are
4 designed for demodulating a modulated carrier signal.

1 12. (currently amended) An integrated circuit for a data carrier which data
2 carrier is designed for contactless communication with a communication station,
3 said integrated circuit comprising the following means: response signal generation
4 means for generating a response signal start moment selection means by which a
5 transmission start moment can be selected from a plurality of transmission start
6 moments that are defined from a predefined moment, wherein each of the
7 transmission start moments results from a sum of a common selectable discrete
8 time period and a number of waiting time periods from the predefined moment,
9 where the number of waiting time periods is defined from the end of the common
10 selectable discrete time period ~~the time differential between said predefined~~
11 ~~moment and each of said transmission start moments includes the sum of a~~
12 ~~common discrete delay period and a number of waiting time periods,~~ and response
13 signal recognition means designed for recognizing a response signal given by
14 another data carrier and for generating and delivering a response signal
15 recognition signal and wherein delivery decision means are provided which
16 release or block a delivery of the response signal in dependence on the response
17 signal recognition signal and the transmission start moment.

1 13. (previously presented) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 12,
2 wherein the response signal generation means are formed by identification signal
3 generation means.

1 14. (previously presented) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 12,
2 wherein the response signal recognition means are designed for recognizing a
3 carrier signal.

1 15. (previously presented) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 12,
2 wherein the response signal recognition means are designed for recognizing a
3 modulated carrier signal and for this purpose comprise demodulation means which
4 are designed for demodulating a modulated carrier signal.

1 16. (currently amended) A method of inventorying data carriers, which
2 method comprises the following steps:
3 choosing from a plurality of transmission start moments that are defined
4 from a predefined moment a transmission start moment for starting a transmission
5 of a carrier signal for the purpose of supplying data to a communication station
6 during the transmission of said carrier signal, wherein the data enable the
7 inventory of the data carrier, and wherein each of the transmission start moments
8 results from a sum of a common selectable discrete time period and a number of
9 waiting time periods from the predefined moment, where the number of waiting
10 time periods is defined from the end of the common selectable discrete time
11 period ~~the time differential between said predefined moment and each of said~~
12 ~~transmission start moments includes the sum of a common discrete delay period~~
13 ~~and a number of waiting time periods;~~
14 testing whether another data carrier is already transmitting a carrier signal
15 after said predefined moment and prior to said chosen transmission start moment;
16 and
17 inhibiting the starting of said transmission of said carrier signal at said
18 chosen transmission start moment if the result of said testing is positive.

1 17. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, comprising
2 starting the transmission of said carrier signal at the chosen transmission start
3 moment if said result of said testing is negative.

1 18. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, comprising
2 transmitting a response signal between two time periods during the carrier signal
3 transmission to take into account transient phenomena.

1 19. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the
2 transmission start moment is selected by a random principle.

1 20. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said
2 choosing of said transmission start moment allows the number of choose-able
3 transmission start moments to be greater than the number of data carriers.

1 21. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said
2 choosing of the transmission start moment is performed in such a way that said
3 predefined moment is defined as the end of a carrier signal transmission of the
4 communication station, the communication station supplied its data representing
5 an inventory command during its carrier signal transmission.

1 22. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said
2 choosing of the transmission start moment comprises shifting said transmission
3 start moment in time by a selectable discrete delay period with respect to said end
4 of the carrier signal transmission of said communication station.

1 23. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, comprising
2 setting said data carrier that has supplied its data as identification data into an idle
3 state by the communication station, in which idle state no carrier signal is
4 transmitted.